

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2009

Chief Gil Kerlikowske
Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Director Kerlikowske,

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the issues of drug production and trafficking in California's Central Valley. We are greatly concerned about the increasing number of methamphetamine laboratories and dump sites in the Central Valley. We believe it would be helpful to meet with you to discuss ways in which we can provide more resources to the HIDTA and better help our local law enforcement to fight drug production and trafficking in the Central Valley.


The Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (CVCHIDTA) has long been called the country's "Meth Capital." While meth production has declined nationwide since 2004, the majority of drug laboratories are still located in the Central Valley, where production appears to be increasing. In particular, Merced and Stanislaus Counties reported increased numbers of laboratories, dumpsites, and abandoned laboratory sites last year. Methamphetamine is considered the drug that contributes the most to violent crime, and the exorbitant level of gang activity in the Central Valley is directly related to the region's production and trafficking of drugs. That is why it is imperative that we address the methamphetamine problem with as more resources and renewed urgency.

We understand that you are incredibly busy transitioning into your new role, but we think meeting in the next few weeks will provide a valuable opportunity for us to identify ways in which we can help the CVCHIDTA obtain the resources and assistance it needs to eradicate drugs in the Central Valley. Our constituents and communities are burdened by heavy criminal gang and drug activity, and we must do all we can to work toward solutions that will offer them measurable relief.

Sincerely,



DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress